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Statistical portrait of Palm Beach County: Summary of the 1970 Census

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A Statistical Portrait of Palm Beach County

SUMMARY OF THE 1970 CENSUS

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Dear Reader:

The following pages contain a brief statistical portrait of the City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County. This report was originally produced by the Census Bureau in late 1972. It is unique in that it was completely written by a computer utilizing the results of the 1970 Census of Population and Housing.

We are reprinting this statistical portrait and making it available to the public to provide a brief, concise profile of the population and housing characteristics enumerated in the 1970 Census. The reader should be aware of two minor changes in the data contained herein. Since the time the original portrait was published, the County's population was revised from 348,753 to 348,993 and West Palm Beach's from 57,328 to 57,375. The Tables in the text should be interpreted as they are written, however.

After inspection of the following statistical portrait, more specific or detailed data may be desired. Such requests for additional information should be directed to our office.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Brutt

Frank W. Brutt, Executive Director
Area Planning Board
Palm Beach County

FWB:SRH:dj

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This report is a republication of a computer generated profile of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County which was prepared from the findings of the 1970 Census of Population and Housing. Brief narratives precede tabular presentations of data for the City and SMSA for such factors as Age Distribution, Racial Composition, Family Status, Mobility, Ethnicity, Veteran Status, School Enrollment, Educational Attainment, Labor Force Status, Occupational and Industry Characteristics, Income, Poverty, Housing Tenure, Occupancy Characteristics, Plumbing Facilities, Housing Value and Rent, Structural Characteristics, Selected Housing Equipment, and Automobiles Available.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE NO.
Introduction	1
General Community Description	2
Characteristics of the Population in the City and SMSA	2
Age Distribution of the Population	2
Racial Composition	2
Families and Unrelated Individuals	2
Mobility of the Population	3
Foreign Stock	4
Mother Tongue	4
Veteran Status	6
School Enrollment	6
Educational Attainment	7
Labor Force Status	7
Class of Worker	8
Major Occupations	9
Major Industries	9
Income	10
Low-Income Population	11
Characteristics of Housing in the City and SMSA	12
Tenure	12
Persons per Room	12
Availability of Plumbing Facilities	13
Value of Owner Occupied Units	13
Gross Rent of Renter Occupied Units	13
Type of Structure	14
Year Structure Built	14
Selected Equipment	15
Automobiles Available	15
Appendix A: Age Distribution of the Population for the City and SMSA	16

LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE NO.
Residence in 1965 for the City and SMSA	4
Foreign Stock Population for the City and SMSA	5
Mother Tongue of the Population for the City and SMSA	5
Veteran Status of Civilian Males for the City and SMSA	6
School Enrollment for the City and SMSA	6
Years of School Completed for the City and SMSA	7
Labor Force Status by Sex for the City and SMSA	8
Class of Worker for the City and SMSA	9
Occupation of the Employed for the City and SMSA	9
Industry of the Employed for the City and SMSA	10
Distribution of Family Income in 1969	10
Persons Below the Low-Income Level in 1969, by Family Status for the City and SMSA	11
Tenure and Vacancy Status of Housing Units for the City and SMSA	12
Value of Specified Owner Occupied Units for the City and SMSA	13
Gross Rent of Specified Renter Occupied Units for the City and SMSA	14
Year Structure Built for Occupied Units for the City and SMSA	14
Availability of Selected Household Equipment for the City and SMSA	15
Automobiles Available for the City and SMSA	15
Age Distribution of the Population for the City and SMSA	16

INTRODUCTION

This report is one of a series of separate computer generated statistical profiles for central cities of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's). Included in the report are selected demographic, economic, and housing characteristics of the central cities and their SMSA's obtained from the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing.

Definitions of the population concepts used here may be found in U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, 'General Social and Economic Characteristics', PC(1)-C, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., which will be issued for each state, as well as for the United States as a whole. The Housing Concepts are defined in U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Housing, 'Detailed Housing Characteristics', HC(1)-B, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

The statistics presented in this report are based on a sample of the population. The data presented here are derived from the 15-percent and 5-percent sample questionnaires used in the 1970 Census of Population and Housing. Some items appeared on both sample questionnaires and, therefore, are based on a 20-percent sample of the population. Since the statistics in this report are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. For a detailed explanation of the sample design and sampling variability, see the reports mentioned above.

For further information about this report, call or write the Director, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C. 20233.

GENERAL COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

West Palm Beach is the central city of the West Palm Beach Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. An SMSA, in general, is a county or a set of contiguous counties with one or more 'central' cities of 50,000 or more inhabitants. A detailed definition of SMSA's with a listing of their component parts may be found in U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, 'Population of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 1950 to 1970', PC(S1)-7, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN THE CITY AND SMSA

In April, 1970, there were 57,328 persons living in West Palm Beach. This number reflects the population enumerated during the 1970 Census of Population and Housing. The City's population represented 16.4 percent of the total population of 348,753 in the SMSA.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION

The 57,328 persons in West Palm Beach included 14,764 persons under the age of 18, 25.8 percent of the population, and 10,713 persons 65 years old and over, 18.7 percent of the population. The comparable percentages for the SMSA were 29.9 percent under 18 years and 17.3 percent 65 years and older. The median age for the City was 39.2 years, compared to 35.5 years for the SMSA as a whole. Appendix A provides a detailed age distribution for the population by race for the City and the SMSA. The median age for the Negro population was 25.9 in the City and 21.5 for the SMSA as a whole. For persons of Spanish language, the median age in the City was 30.4 years and 23.4 years for the SMSA.

RACIAL COMPOSITION

There were 43,227 white persons living in the City, or 75.4 percent of the total population. White persons represented 82.2 percent of the population of the SMSA.

There were 14,018 Negroes living in the City in 1970. They constituted 24.5 percent of the population of West Palm Beach. Negroes represented 17.5 percent of the population of the SMSA.

Also living in the City were 3,349 persons of Spanish language representing 5.8 percent of the City's population. For the SMSA, the figure was 4.0 percent.

FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS

There were 15,147 families consisting of two or more related persons in the City according to the 1970 Census of Population. Families headed by a man represented 83.3 percent of the families in the City. The remaining 16.7 percent were headed by a woman. For the SMSA, 89.5 percent of families had a man as head, and 10.5 percent were headed by a woman.

About 67.5 percent of the 3,142 Negro families in the City were headed by a man, while 32.5 percent were headed by a woman. The comparable figures for the SMSA were 74.0 percent and 26.0 percent, respectively. There were 849 families of Spanish language in the City, 91.2 percent of which were headed by a man and 8.8 percent by a woman.

The average size of families in the City was 3.11 persons as compared with an average of 3.23 persons for the SMSA as a whole. For Negro families, the average size was 3.98 persons while for white families, the average was 2.98 persons. For families of Spanish language in the City, the average size was 3.80 persons. Of the 15,147 families in the City, 6,748 had related children under 18 years of age. This represented 44.6 percent of the City's families. About 46.7 percent of the families in the SMSA had related children under 18 years. In West Palm Beach, 70.4 percent of the related children under 18 years were living with both parents. The comparable figure for the SMSA was 79.3 percent.

There were 8,957 unrelated individuals (persons living alone or with a non-relative) enumerated in West Palm Beach during the 1970 Census of Population. Negroes accounted for 1,937, or 21.6 percent of the unrelated individuals in the City. About 145, or 1.6 percent of the unrelated individuals in the City were persons of Spanish language.

MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION

About 48.4 percent of the 53,936 persons 5 years and over in the City moved between 1965 and 1970. Of these movers, 45.0 percent moved within the same county, and 10.6 percent moved from a different county within the State. The remainder of the movers came from States other than Florida. Of the 6,805 persons who moved to West Palm Beach during the past 5 years from other States, 40.4 percent came from Northeastern States, 22.0 percent from North Central States, 31.3 from Southern States, and 6.3 percent from the Western States.

Of the 12,555 Negro persons 5 years old and over, 5,574 or 44.4 percent moved between 1965 and 1970. The number of Negroes who moved to West Palm Beach from States other than Florida was 671. The proportion of these movers from Southern States was 62.9 percent, while 14.0 percent came from Northeastern States, 23.1 percent from North Central States, and 0.0 percent from the West. The number of movers who were persons of Spanish language in the City was 2,368, representing 77.7 percent of the 3,047 persons of Spanish language 5 years of age and older. About 225 of these persons moved from States other than Florida, 26.7 percent coming from the West, 57.8 percent from the Northeast, 4.9 percent from the North Central, and 10.7 percent from the South. Also, 1,050 persons of Spanish language living in West Palm Beach in 1970 were living abroad in 1965.

RESIDENCE IN 1965 FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Persons 5 Yrs. and Over	53,936	100.0	323,674	100.0
Same House as 1970	27,851	51.6	140,885	43.5
Different House in the U.S.	21,300	39.5	156,038	48.2
Same County	11,732	21.8	71,145	22.0
Different County	9,568	17.7	84,893	26.2
Same State	2,763	5.1	21,324	6.6
Different State	6,805	12.6	63,569	19.6
Northeast	2,750	5.1	29,586	9.1
North Central	1,498	2.8	17,397	5.4
South	2,128	3.9	13,465	4.2
West	429	0.8	3,121	1.0
Abroad and Not Reported	4,785	8.9	26,751	8.3

FOREIGN STOCK

In West Palm Beach, 12,054 of the persons enumerated during the 1970 Census were of foreign stock, that is were themselves foreign born or were children of foreign born parents. Foreign stock accounted for 21.0 percent of the City's population, compared to 20.1 percent for the SMSA as a whole. The largest foreign stock groups for the City were persons or children of persons from Cuba and Germany.

MOTHER TONGUE

About 15.5 percent of the population in West Palm Beach reported that a language other than English was spoken in their home when they were children. This compared with 14.9 percent for the SMSA as a whole. Spanish and German were the two foreign languages reported with the highest degree of frequency. The mother tongue of the population is shown below.

FOREIGN STOCK POPULATION FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Foreign Stock, Total	12,054	100.0	70,211	100.0
Austria	246	2.0	1,831	2.6
Canada	1,205	10.0	8,451	12.0
China	7	0.1	133	0.2
Cuba	2,196	18.2	5,636	8.0
Czechoslovakia	224	1.9	1,188	1.7
Denmark	145	1.2	757	1.1
Finland	126	1.0	2,561	3.6
France	197	1.6	1,228	1.7
Germany	1,329	11.0	8,147	11.6
Greece	110	0.9	490	0.7
Hungary	160	1.3	1,114	1.6
Ireland	528	4.4	3,285	4.7
Italy	793	6.6	5,068	7.2
Japan	43	0.4	113	0.2
Lithuania	146	1.2	670	1.0
Mexico	36	0.3	1,410	2.0
Netherlands	118	1.0	1,033	1.5
Norway	163	1.4	1,147	1.6
Philippine Islands	12	0.1	102	0.1
Poland	379	3.1	2,253	3.2
Portugal	6	0.0	174	0.2
Rumania	106	0.9	378	0.5
Sweden	333	2.8	2,285	3.3
Switzerland	91	0.8	499	0.7
U.S.S.R.	437	3.6	2,292	3.3
United Kingdom	1,258	10.4	8,738	12.4
Yugoslavia	35	0.3	319	0.5
All Other	1,625	13.5	8,909	12.7

MOTHER TONGUE OF THE POPULATION, FOR THE CITY AND THE SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Population	57,328	100.0	348,753	100.0
English Only	45,694	79.7	282,552	81.0
French	821	1.4	5,219	1.5
German	1,583	2.8	11,124	3.2
Hungarian	106	0.2	811	0.2
Italian	808	1.4	4,895	1.4
Polish	256	0.4	2,039	0.6
Russian	73	0.1	362	0.1
Spanish	2,893	5.0	11,665	3.3
Swedish	282	0.5	1,834	0.5
Yiddish	338	0.6	1,410	0.4
All Other	1,212	2.1	10,093	2.9
Not Reported	3,257	5.7	16,749	4.8

VETERAN STATUS

Of the 18,907 civilian males 18 years and over in the City, 8,799 or 46.5 percent were veterans. The comparable figure for the SMSA as a whole was 45.6 percent. The number of City veterans in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict was 1,285. They represented 19.9 percent of the veterans of the Vietnam period living in the SMSA. The table below represents the number of veterans, classified by period of service. Veterans with more than one period of service are shown according to the most recent period reported.

VETERAN STATUS OF CIVILIAN MALES FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Civilian Males, 18 Yrs. and Over	18,907	100.0	113,597	100.0
Veterans	8,799	46.5	51,850	45.6
Vietnam Conflict	1,285	6.8	6,452	5.7
Korean War	1,410	7.5	9,330	8.2
World War II	4,267	22.6	22,498	19.8
World War I	910	4.8	6,792	6.0
Other Service	927	4.9	6,778	6.0
Nonveterans	10,108	53.5	61,747	54.4

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

There were 12,919 persons 3 to 34 years old enrolled in schools within the City. This includes 813 children in Nursery School and Kindergarten, 6,954 children in Grades 1 through 8, and 3,777 in High School. The 1,375 enrolled in College include only those students who live in the City. It does not include those students whose parental home is in the City but who live outside the City while attending College. Negroes comprised 37.2 percent of the public school enrollment below the college level in the City, compared to 27.4 percent for the SMSA as a whole.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Enrolled: 3 to 34 Years	12,919	100.0	86,886	100.0
Nursery and Kindergarten	813	6.3	6,700	7.7
Elementary, 1 Through 8 Yrs.	6,954	53.8	50,771	58.4
High School, 1 Through 4 Yrs.	3,777	29.2	21,312	24.5
College	1,375	10.6	8,103	9.3

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Of the population 25 years old and over in West Palm Beach, 27.9 percent had a grade school education or less, 53.8 percent were high school graduates, including 22.8 percent who had completed some years of college. For the SMSA, the figures were 25.7 percent who had completed eight or fewer years of school, 55.7 percent who had completed at least high school, and 25.1 percent who had completed one or more years of college. The median school years completed for persons 25 years old and over was 12.1 years in West Palm Beach, as compared to 12.2 years for the SMSA as a whole.

About 10.2 percent of the population 25 years old and over in the City had completed four years of college or more, compared with 11.9 percent for the SMSA.

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Persons 25 Yrs. and Over	36,752	100.0	213,476	100.0
No. School Yrs. Completed	607	1.7	2,776	1.3
Elementary: 1 to 7 Yrs.	5,346	14.5	28,405	13.3
8 Years	4,311	11.7	23,629	11.1
High School: 1 to 3 Yrs.	6,714	18.3	39,794	18.6
4 Years	11,381	31.0	65,389	30.6
College: 1 to 3 Yrs.	4,630	12.6	28,022	13.1
4 Yrs. or More	3,763	10.2	25,461	11.9
Median School Yrs. Completed	12.1	...	12.2	...

LABOR FORCE STATUS

The Labor Force in West Palm Beach numbered 25,796 persons, or 57.9 percent of all persons 16 years old and over. Of the total labor force, 66 persons were members of the Armed Forces and the remaining 25,730 persons were in the Civilian Labor Force. The Civilian Labor Force was composed of 24,850 employed persons and 880 persons who were not currently employed, but were on layoff or actively seeking employment and available to accept a job (unemployed). In April, 1970, the unemployment rate for the City was 3.4 percent compared to 3.0 percent for the SMSA. These unemployment rates are based on the Civilian Labor Force. The percentages shown in the Table below are distributions of the population 16 years old and over.

Females constituted 45.3 percent of the City's Civilian Labor Force, compared with 40.1 percent of the SMSA Civilian Labor Force. Of the 11,653 women in the Civilian Labor Force in the City, 387 or 3.3 percent were unemployed in April, 1970. For the SMSA, the average female unemployment rate was 3.2 percent.

Negroes comprised 23.8 percent of the total labor force. About 0 of these persons were members of the Armed Forces. Negroes represented 23.8 percent of the Civilian Labor Force. Of these, 256 or 4.2 percent were unemployed.

There were 1,571 persons of Spanish language in the City's Labor Force. Of these, 1,571 were in the Civilian Labor Force. They represented 6.1 percent of the City's Civilian Labor Force. About 39 or 2.5 percent of the persons of Spanish language in the Civilian Labor Force were unemployed.

LABOR FORCE STATUS BY SEX FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
BOTH SEXES				
Total, 16 Yrs. and Over	44,539	100.0	255,811	100.0
Labor Force	25,796	57.9	136,039	53.2
Civilian Labor Force	25,730	57.8	135,744	53.1
Employed	24,850	55.8	131,606	51.4
Unemployed	880	2.0	4,138	1.6
Armed Forces	66	0.1	295	0.1
Not in Labor Force	18,743	42.1	119,772	46.8
MALE				
Total, 16 Yrs. and Over	19,989	100.0	119,722	100.0
Labor Force	14,132	70.7	81,535	68.1
Civilian Labor Force	14,077	70.4	81,255	67.9
Employed	13,584	68.0	78,860	65.9
Unemployed	493	2.5	2,395	2.0
Armed Forces	55	0.3	280	0.2
Not in Labor Force	5,857	29.3	38,187	31.9
FEMALE				
Total, 16 Yrs. and Over	24,550	100.0	136,089	100.0
Civilian Labor Force	11,653	47.5	54,489	40.0
Employed	11,266	45.9	52,746	38.8
Unemployed	387	1.6	1,743	1.3
Not in Civilian Labor Force	12,897	52.5	81,600	60.0

CLASS OF WORKER

Of the 24,850 employed persons in the City, 79.1 percent worked for wages or salary for a private company, business or individual. Another 13.0 percent of the employed worked for local, state or the federal government. The self-employed represented 7.4 percent of persons employed in the City. The remaining 0.5 percent of employed persons were unpaid family workers.

CLASS OF WORKER FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Employed	24,850	100.0	131,606	100.0
Private Wage or Salary	19,659	79.1	104,175	79.2
Government Worker	3,233	13.0	16,333	12.4
Federal Government	470	1.9	1,952	1.5
State Government	497	2.0	3,407	2.6
Local Government	2,266	9.1	10,974	8.3
Self-Employed Worker	1,832	7.4	10,360	7.9
Unpaid Family Worker	126	0.5	738	0.6

MAJOR OCCUPATIONS

More residents of West Palm Beach were employed as clerical and kindred workers than in any other occupation category. The second and third largest occupational fields were professional, technical and kindred workers and service workers, except private household, respectively. Below is a Table showing the major occupation categories as identified by the U.S. Government and the number of employed persons in each category who reside in West Palm Beach and the entire SMSA.

OCCUPATION OF THE EMPLOYED FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Employed	24,850	100.0	131,606	100.0
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	3,672	14.8	19,739	15.0
Managers and Administrators	2,008	8.1	12,236	9.3
Sales Workers	2,315	9.3	11,728	8.9
Clerical and Kindred Workers	4,315	17.4	20,683	15.7
Craftsmen and Kindred Workers	2,847	11.5	18,199	13.8
Operatives, Including Transport	3,213	12.9	14,620	11.1
Laborers, Except Farm	1,726	6.9	7,230	5.5
Farmers and Farm Managers	22	0.1	528	0.4
Farm Laborers and Foremen	128	0.5	5,968	4.5
Service Workers, Except Private Household	3,275	13.2	16,085	12.2
Private Household Workers	1,329	5.3	4,590	3.5

MAJOR INDUSTRIES

In West Palm Beach, there were more persons employed in wholesale and retail trade than in any other industrial category. The second and third largest industries were professional and related services and manufacturing, respectively. The complete list of major industrial groups is shown below.

INDUSTRY OF THE EMPLOYED FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Employed	24,850	100.0	131,606	100.0
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	549	2.2	9,695	7.4
Mining	7	0.0	96	0.1
Construction	2,180	8.8	12,485	9.5
Manufacturing	3,218	12.9	20,675	15.7
Durable Goods	2,321	9.3	16,273	12.4
Nondurable Goods	897	3.6	4,402	3.3
Transportation, Communication, and Other Public Utilities	1,431	5.8	6,452	4.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade	5,800	23.3	29,058	22.1
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,470	5.9	7,700	5.9
Business and Repair Services	957	3.9	4,674	3.6
Personal Services	3,161	12.7	12,099	9.2
Entertainment and Recreation Services	451	1.8	2,258	1.7
Professional and Related Services	4,375	17.6	20,978	15.9
Public Administration	1,251	5.0	5,436	4.1

INCOME

The median income in 1969 of families in West Palm Beach was $8,381. This means that one-half of the families in the City had incomes below this value and one-half had incomes above this value. The comparable figure for the SMSA was $9,102. The median income for Negro families in the City was $4,891. For persons of Spanish language in the City, the median family income was $8,590.

Families with income less than $5,000 were 26.3 percent of all families in the City, while families with income of $15,000 or more constituted 17.8 percent of the families. Thus, 55.9 percent of the families had incomes between $5,000 and $15,000. The Table below shows comparable data for West Palm Beach and the SMSA as a whole.

DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY INCOME IN 1969

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
All Families	15,147	100.0	95,373	100.0
Less Than $3,000	1,946	12.8	10,270	10.8
$3,000 to $4,999	2,035	13.4	11,416	12.0
$5,000 to $6,999	2,142	14.1	12,569	13.2
$7,000 to $9,999	3,032	20.0	18,547	19.4
$10,000 to $14,999	3,297	21.8	21,688	22.7
$15,000 to $24,999	1,901	12.6	14,070	14.8
$25,000 or More	794	5.2	6,813	7.1
MEDIAN INCOME	8,381	...	9,102	...

The median income for unrelated individuals in the City was $2,979 as compared to $2,943 for all unrelated individuals in the SMSA.

On a per capita income basis, every man, woman and child in the City averaged $3,405. The per capita income throughout the SMSA was $3,847.

LOW-INCOME POPULATION

Of the 15,147 families in West Palm Beach, 1,856, or 12.3 percent, had 1969 incomes which were below the low-income (poverty) level. The terms 'poverty' and 'low-income' are used interchangeably in Census Bureau publications. Low-income status is based on estimated minimum income needs for various family sizes, officially adopted for statistical purposes by the U.S. Government. The low-income level was, for example, about $3,700 for a four-person family in 1969, and about $1,800 for unrelated individuals. Low-income statistics exclude inmates of institutions, members of the Armed Forces living in barracks, college students living in dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 14 years old. For the SMSA, 10.3 percent of all families were below the low-income level. Families with a woman as head comprised 42.3 percent of the low-income families in West Palm Beach.

There was a total of 9,518 persons below the low-income level in the City in 1969. Of these, 5,003 or 52.6 percent were Negroes. Persons below the low-income level represented 17.0 percent of all persons in the City, compared to 14.3 percent for the SMSA. In the City, 68.4 percent of these persons were members of families, while the remainder were unrelated individuals. Children under 18 years of age represented 32.5 percent of all persons below the low-income level, while persons 65 years and over comprised 26.9 percent of the City's low-income population. For the SMSA, the comparable figures were 37.8 percent and 22.2 percent, respectively.

PERSONS BELOW THE LOW-INCOME LEVEL IN 1969, BY FAMILY STATUS FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER BELOW LOW-INC LEVEL	PERCENT BELOW LOW-INC LEVEL	NUMBER BELOW LOW-INC LEVEL	PERCENT BELOW LOW-INC LEVEL
All Persons	9,518	17.0	49,134	14.3
65 Years and Over	2,564	25.2	10,900	18.5
In Families	6,514	13.8	37,227	12.1
Family Heads	1,856	12.3	9,831	10.3
Male	1,070	8.5	6,533	7.7
Female	786	31.1	3,298	33.0
Related Children Under 18 Yrs.	3,092	21.7	18,561	18.1
Other Family Members	1,566	8.8	8,835	8.0
Unrelated Individuals	3,004	33.9	11,907	33.4

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING IN THE CITY AND SMSA

TENURE

In West Palm Beach, there were 23,972 year-round housing units in 1970. Of these housing units, 22,216 or 92.7 percent were occupied, 1,184 or 4.9 percent were vacant, but for sale or rent, and the remaining 572 or 2.4 percent were vacant but were not for sale or rent.

In West Palm Beach, 53.4 percent of the occupied housing units were owner occupied and 46.6 percent renter occupied. The comparable figures for the SMSA were 67.6 percent and 32.4 percent, respectively.

TENURE AND VACANCY STATUS OF HOUSING UNITS FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY	SMSA
All Housing Units	24,354	141,232
All Year-Round Housing Units	23,972	135,131
All Occupied Units	22,216	123,347
Owner-Occupied	11,856	83,405
Percent of All Occupied	53.4	67.6
Renter Occupied	10,360	39,942
Vacant for Sale or Rent	1,184	6,461
Other Vacant	572	5,323

Negroes occupied 4,344 of the housing units in the City. About 29.3 percent of the housing units in which Negroes lived were owner occupied and 70.7 percent were renter occupied. Persons of Spanish language occupied 963 of the City's housing units. About 30.5 percent of these housing units were owner occupied while the remaining 69.5 percent were renter occupied.

PERSONS PER ROOM

Persons per room is often used as a measure of overcrowding, that is whether there is adequate living space per person. In West Palm Beach, 92.3 percent of the occupied housing units had one or fewer persons per room, 4.6 percent 1.01 to 1.50 persons per room, and 3.1 percent had over 1.50 persons per room. For the SMSA as a whole, 91.2 percent had one or fewer persons per room, 5.1 percent 1.01 to 1.50 persons per room, and 3.7 percent had more than 1.50 persons per room. Among the Negro occupied housing units, 76.2 percent had one or fewer persons per room, 13.4 percent had 1.01 to 1.50 persons per room and 10.4 percent had more than 1.50 persons per room. For the housing units occupied by persons of Spanish language, 75.9 percent had one or fewer persons per room, 14.8 percent had between 1.01 and 1.50 persons per room, and 9.2 percent had over 1.50 persons per room.

AVAILABILITY OF PLUMBING FACILITIES

Often used as a measure of adequate housing is the availability of basic plumbing facilities - hot piped water, flush toilet for exclusive use, and a bathtub or shower for exclusive use. In West Palm Beach, 97.0 percent of the occupied housing units had all plumbing facilities. For the SMSA as a whole, the figure was 95.6 percent. For housing units occupied by Negroes, 91.6 percent had all plumbing facilities and 8.4 percent lacked some or all plumbing. About 95.5 percent of the housing units occupied by persons of Spanish language in the City had all plumbing facilities, while 4.5 percent lacked some or all plumbing.

VALUE OF OWNER OCCUPIED UNITS

The median value of specified owner occupied housing units in the City was $15,425, as compared to $17,722 for the SMSA.

VALUE OF SPECIFIED OWNER OCCUPIED UNITS FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Specified Owner Occupied	10,566	100.0	64,515	100.0
Less Than $5,000	149	1.4	1,122	1.7
$5,000 to $7,499	478	4.5	2,760	4.3
$7,500 to $9,999	1,037	9.8	4,543	7.0
$10,000 to $14,999	3,402	32.2	16,232	25.2
$15,000 to $19,999	2,556	24.2	13,962	21.6
$20,000 to $24,999	1,305	12.4	8,926	13.8
$25,000 to $34,999	914	8.7	7,673	11.9
$35,000 to $49,999	483	4.6	4,940	7.7
$50,000 or More	242	2.3	4,357	6.8
Median Value	15,425	...	17,722	...

GROSS RENT OF RENTER OCCUPIED UNITS

The median gross rent of specified renter occupied housing units in the City was $98. Gross rent is the monthly rent plus the average cost of utilities and fuel. For the SMSA as a whole, the median gross rent was $111.

GROSS RENT OF SPECIFIED RENTER OCCUPIED UNITS FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Specified Renter Occupied	9,919	100.0	36,600	100.0
Less Than $60	1,170	11.8	4,129	11.3
$60 to $79	1,704	17.2	5,070	13.9
$80 to $99	2,316	23.3	6,701	18.3
$100 to $149	3,123	31.5	11,264	30.8
$150 to $199	1,027	10.4	5,199	14.2
$200 to $299	476	4.8	2,886	7.9
$300 or More	103	1.0	1,351	3.7
Median Gross Rent	98	...	111	...

TYPE OF STRUCTURE

In West Palm Beach, 65.0 percent of the 22,216 occupied housing units were single unit structures, compared to 65.4 percent for the SMSA as a whole.

Another 18.0 percent of the occupied housing units were in 2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit structures, while 16.2 percent were in apartment buildings with five or more units. Mobile homes and trailers accounted for 0.8 percnet of the occupied housing units in the City.

Of the 1,756 vacant year-round housing units in West Palm Beach, 37.5 percent were single unit structures, 22.0 percent were in 2-unit, 3-unit or 4-unit structures, and 40.5 percent were in apartment buildings with five units or more.

YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

Structures built in 1960 or later numbered 4,252, or 19.1 percent of the City's occupied housing units. The comparable SMSA figure was 44.8 percent. Housing units built before 1940 represented 34.7 percent of the City's occupied units. The comparable figure for the SMSA was 13.7 percent.

YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT FOR OCCUPIED UNITS FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Occupied Units	22,216	100.0	123,347	100.0
1965 to March, 1970	2,197	9.9	28,637	23.2
1960 to 1964	2,055	9.3	26,638	21.6
1950 to 1959	6,143	27.7	37,769	30.6
1940 to 1949	4,122	18.6	13,408	10.9
1939 or Earlier	7,699	34.7	16,895	13.7

SELECTED EQUIPMENT

A telephone was available to 17,431 or 78.5 percent of the 22,216 households in West Palm Beach and 95.4 percent had a television. About 55.7 percent had air conditioning and 15.4 percent a dishwasher. The Table below presents the number and percent of households in West Palm Beach and the SMSA with selected equipment.

AVAILABILITY OF SELECTED HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
All Occupied Units	22,216	100.0	123,347	100.0
With:				
Clothes Washing Machine	10,704	48.2	69,935	56.7
Clothes Dryer	3,848	17.3	32,519	26.4
Dishwasher	3,427	15.4	28,037	22.7
Television	21,203	95.4	117,310	95.1
UHF Equipped	6,377	28.7	42,133	34.2
Battery Operated Radio	15,280	68.8	90,418	73.3
Telephone	17,431	78.5	101,923	82.6
Air Conditioning	12,376	55.7	78,566	63.7
Public Water Supply	20,936	94.2	105,105	85.2
Public Sewer	21,810	98.2	91,553	74.2

AUTOMOBILES AVAILABLE

An automobile was available to 17,737 or 79.8 percent of the households in West Palm Beach. Only one automobile was available to 50.6 percent of the City's households while 29.2 percent had two or more. The comparable figures for the SMSA were 51.4 percent with one automobile and 36.1 percent with two or more.

AUTOMOBILES AVAILABLE FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	CITY		SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
All Occupied Units	22,216	100.0	123,347	100.0
1 Automobile	11,250	50.6	63,422	51.4
2 Automobiles	5,375	24.2	37,579	30.5
3 or More Automobiles	1,112	5.0	6,958	5.6
NONE	4,479	20.2	15,388	12.5

APPENDIX A

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION FOR THE CITY AND SMSA

	THE CITY		THE SMSA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
ALL RACES				
TOTAL	57,328	100.0	348,753	100.0
Under 18 Years	14,764	25.8	104,418	29.9
Under 6 Years	4,003	7.0	30,652	8.8
6 to 13 Years	6,737	11.8	49,320	14.1
14 to 17 Years	4,024	7.0	24,446	7.0
18 Years and Over	42,564	74.2	244,335	70.1
18 to 20 Years	2,580	4.5	13,430	3.9
21 Years and Over	39,984	69.7	230,905	66.2
21 to 24 Years	3,232	5.6	17,429	5.0
25 to 34 Years	5,675	9.9	37,364	10.7
35 to 44 Years	5,744	10.0	36,398	10.4
45 to 54 Years	7,225	12.6	38,933	11.2
55 to 64 Years	7,395	12.9	40,409	11.6
65 Years and Over	10,713	18.7	60,372	17.3
Median Age	39.2	...	35.5	...
WHITE				
TOTAL	43,227	100.0	286,838	100.0
Under 18 Years	9,493	22.0	77,190	26.9
Under 6 Years	2,364	5.5	21,826	7.6
6 to 13 Years	4,236	9.8	36,499	12.7
14 to 17 Years	2,893	6.7	18,865	6.6
18 Years and Over	33,734	78.0	209,648	73.1
18 to 20 Years	1,898	4.4	10,317	3.6
21 Years and Over	31,836	73.6	199,331	69.5
21 to 24 Years	2,298	5.3	13,806	4.8
25 to 34 Years	4,025	9.3	29,736	10.4
35 to 44 Years	4,120	9.5	29,722	10.4
45 to 54 Years	5,875	13.6	33,445	11.7
55 to 64 Years	6,107	14.1	35,790	12.5
65 Years and Over	9,411	21.8	56,832	19.8
Median Age	44.5	...	39.2	...
NEGRO				
TOTAL	14,018	100.0	61,088	100.0
Under 18 Years	5,267	37.6	27,028	44.2
Under 6 Years	1,639	11.7	8,789	14.4
6 to 13 Years	2,497	17.8	12,715	20.8
14 to 17 Years	1,131	8.1	5,524	9.0
18 Years and Over	8,751	62.4	34,060	55.8
18 to 20 Years	682	4.9	3,062	5.0
21 Years and Over	8,069	57.6	30,998	50.7
21 to 24 Years	911	6.5	3,571	5.8
25 to 34 Years	1,626	11.6	7,515	12.3
35 to 44 Years	1,619	11.5	6,560	10.7
45 to 54 Years	1,350	9.6	5,406	8.8
55 to 64 Years	1,283	9.2	4,541	7.4
65 Years and Over	1,280	9.1	3,405	5.6
Median Age	25.9	...	21.5	...